

598



THE INVINCIBLE

IRON MAN



**BENDIS
CASELLI
MALEEV
GRACIA**



THE SEARCH FOR TONY STARK

PART SIX

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LETTERER: VC'S CLAYTON COWLES

TONY STARK
IS MISSING!

EVERY
AVENGER IN
THE WORLD IS
LOOKING FOR
HIM.

HIS YOUNG
PROTÉGÉ, RIRI
WILLIAMS, IRONHEART, IS
LEADING THE CHARGE
TO FIND HIM.

BUT WE HAVE
TO START LOOKING
IN THE PLACES NO ONE
ELSE WOULD KNOW
TO LOOK.

PLUS--AND
THIS IS CONFIRMED--
DR. DOOM IS FLYING
AROUND *PRETENDING*
TO BE IRON
MAN!

I HONESTLY
DO NOT KNOW IF
THESE FACTS ARE
RELATED...

I KNOW
SOME HAVE
PROPOSED THAT DOOM
HAS KIDNAPPED OR KILLED
TONY SO HE COULD BE
IRON MAN.

BUT THAT
FITS ABSOLUTELY
NO PREVIOUS M.O.
FOR VICTOR VON
DOOM.

THIS MAY,
AS OTHERS HAVE
THEORIZED, BE HIS
WARPED VERSION OF
DOING THE RIGHT
THING.

BUT I DON'T
WANT *ANY* OF YOU TO
GO OUT THERE LOOKING
FOR STARK AND RUN
INTO DOOM
UNAWARE.

IF YOU
DO, YOU CALL
US.

NO ONE
SHOULD EVER
GO UP AGAINST
A MONSTER
LIKE DOOM
ALONE.

NO
ONE.

YOU'RE AN
AVENGER--WE
FIGHT THE FIGHT
NO SINGLE HERO
COULD FIGHT
ALONE.

THAT
MEANS IF
YOU SEE DOOM,
YOU CALL
US!

IF *ANY* OF
YOU SEE OR HEAR
ANYTHING, ANY CHATTER,
ABOUT *TONY STARK*,
YOU BRING IT RIGHT
TO ME.



COVER ART: ALEX MALEEV

VARIANT COVER: DALE KEOWN & JASON KEITH

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IRON MAN CREATED BY STAN LEE, LARRY LIEBER, DON HECK & JACK KIRBY





YOU KNOW, THE MASSIVE SUPREME HEADQUARTERS OF INTELLIGENCE COMMUNITY LEAGUE OF SUPER-SPIES.

I DON'T THINK *THAT'S* WHAT IT ACTUALLY STANDS FOR, BUT--

WELL, D'YA MISS IT?

NOT SURE I'VE GIVEN IT ANY THOUGHT, BUT I HAVE BEEN *UNUSUALLY* BUSY LATELY...

WELL, SOMETHING IS COOKING THAT MIGHT FILL THE VOID AND THEN SOME...

...AND WE NEED YOU AND WE NEED TONY STARK.

I AM HERE WITH A MESSAGE--ACCEPT THE OFFER FROM M.I.T.

IT'S AN AMAZING COVER--THERE ARE FRIENDLIES THERE THAT CAN HELP YOU EXPEDITE THE SEARCH FOR STARK.

I'D DO IT BUT IT AIN'T MY WHEELHOUSE, FOR DAMN SURE.



WHO NEEDS ME FOR WHAT?



GET TO M.I.T., GET STARK, WE'LL COME TO YOU. AND DO IT FAST.

NOT EVERYONE IS AS INTO THE IDEA OF YOU AS I AM.

PROVE THEM WRONG.



PROVE WHO WRONG?



PROVE WHO WRONG?

LATVERIA.
TODAY.

PARKER
ROBBINS, YOU
GENUINELY SEEM
TO HAVE FORGOTTEN
WHAT HAPPENS WHEN
YOU CROSS VICTOR
VON DOOM!

REALLY,
DOOM...

...FIRST RULE
OF \$\$\$ TALKING,
VIC--MAKE SURE YOU
HAVE A LEG TO
STAND ON.

REALLY?
DOOM--

NOW, WHAT
ARE YOU DOING
HERE IN THIS BROKEN
CASTLE OF
CRAP?

WHAT
ARE YOU HERE
PROTECTING?

IF I CAN
BE A LITTLE
BLUNT--WHERE'S
ALL YOUR
MONEY?

BAM
BAM
BAM

BAM
BAM
BAM

BAM
BAM
BAM

HUH?!

WHERE'S
ALL THE MONEY YOU
USED TO USE TO RUN
THIS \$\$\$ OF A
COUNTRY?

WHERE'S
THE STASH?

WHERE'S
THE GOLD?

GIVE US
SOMETHING WORTH
YOUR LIFE AND MAYBE
YOU'LL GET TO
KEEP IT.

YOU'RE
USING MYSTICAL
FORCES YOU KNOW
NOTHING
ABOUT.

WELL, I'M
DEFINITELY USING
MYSTICAL FORCES
YOU KNOW NOTHING
ABOUT.

NOTICE YOU
CAN'T TELEPORT
OUT OF THIS?

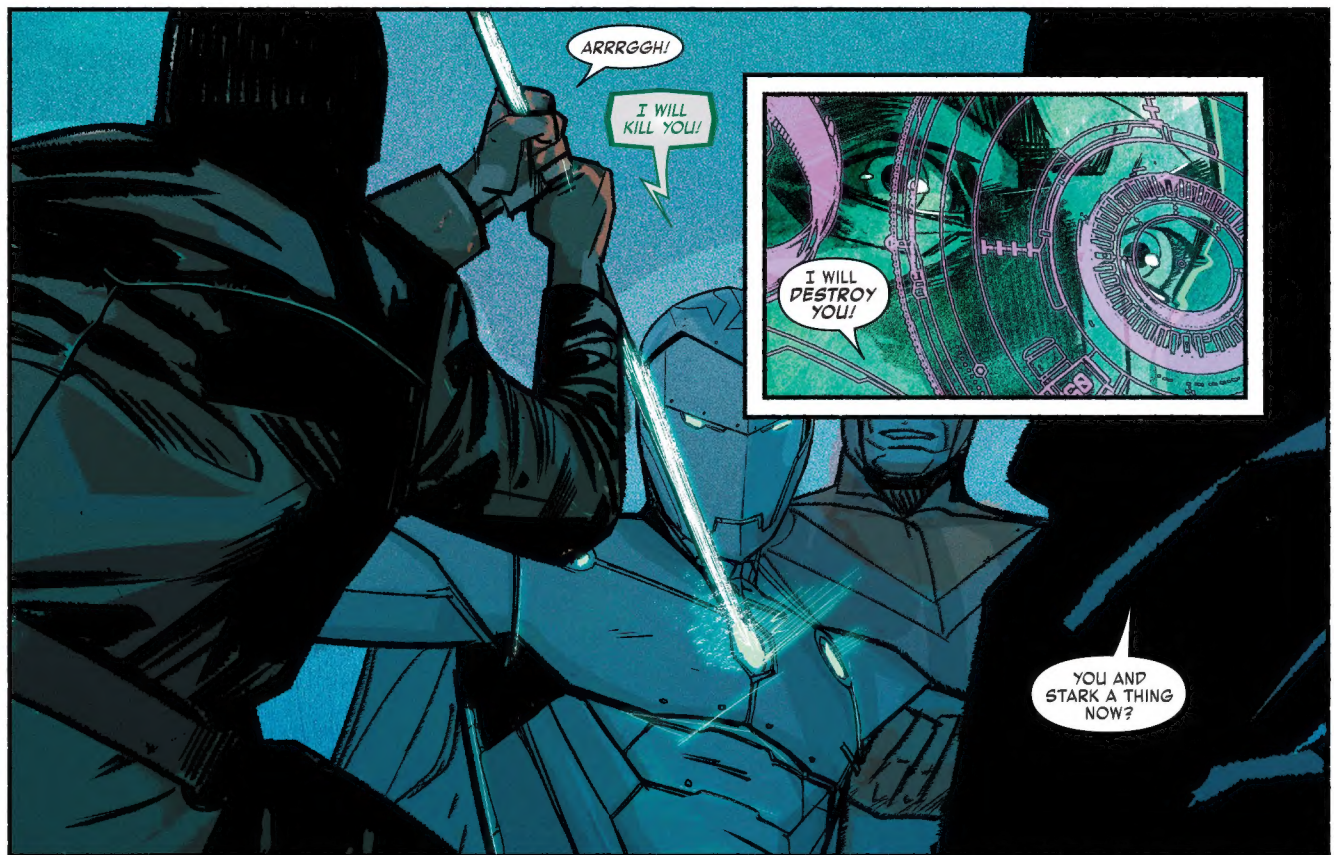
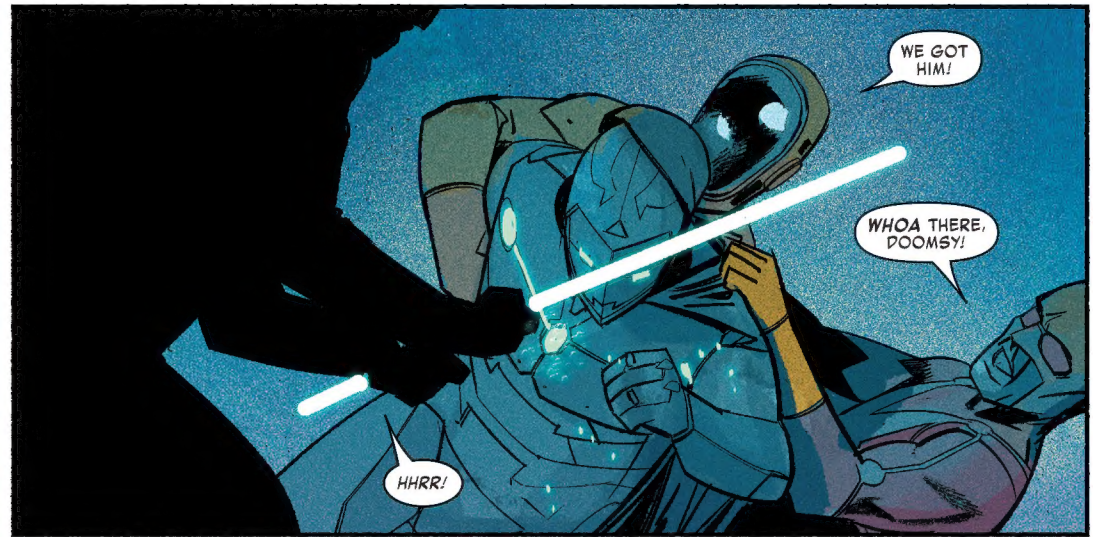
SEE?
(ARROGANT
SCHMUCK.)

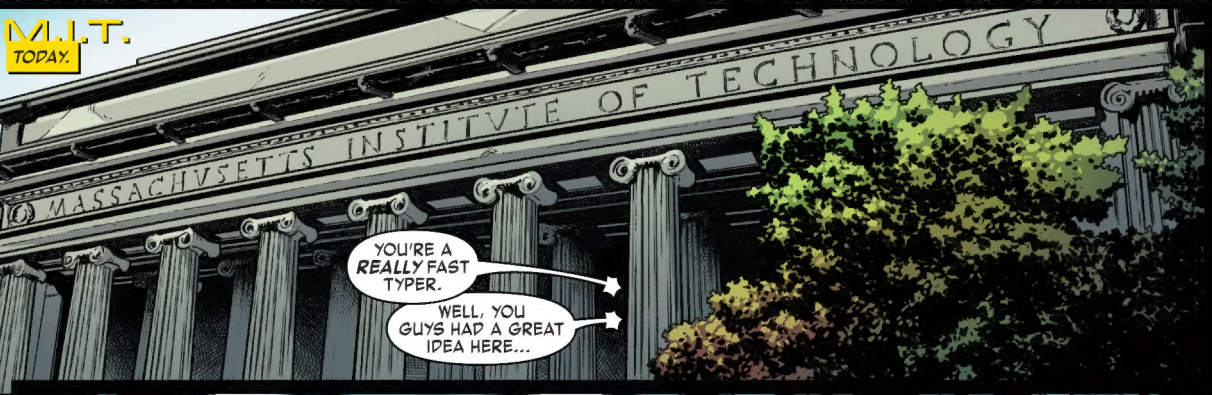
WHERE'S
THE GOLD,
VIC?

THUG.

WRECKER,
CRACK OPEN
THIS BASTARD'S
ARMOR.

I MAY
NEED TO SHOOT
HIM RIGHT IN THE
FACE.





YOU'RE A
REALLY FAST
TYPER.

WELL, YOU
GUYS HAD A GREAT
IDEA HERE...

WHICH
PART, RI?

TRACING THE
SIGNATURE CODING
ON EACH INDIVIDUAL IRON MAN
ARMOR IN MR. STARK'S ARCHIVE
UNTIL YOU FOUND THE ONE
HE WAS USING TO HIDE
FROM US...

BUT WE
DIDN'T HAVE
ACCESS TO THE
INDIVIDUAL CODE
SEQUENCES
BECAUSE, YOU
KNOW...

SECRETS.

I DON'T,
EITHER, BUT ONCE
WE GET THIS HACK
LOADED, I KNOW
SOMEONE WHO
DOES--

OH,
FRIDAY!

WHAT
HAPPENS ON
FRIDAY?

FRIDAY,
NOW,
PLEASE!

ARE
YOU HAVING A
STROKE?

MADISON
JEFFRIES.

TONI
HO.

ARNO
STARK.

IT'S
WEDNESDAY.



MISS
WILLIAMS, I
LIKE WHAT YOU'RE
DOING AND I LIKE
WHERE YOU'RE
GOING WITH
THIS.

JEEZ!

WHO IS
THIS?

THIS
IS FRIDAY,
TONY STARK'S
PERSONAL
A.I.

HI!

SHE'S
AMAZING.

OH,
YOU.

NOW WE
SHOULD BE ABLE
TO PINPOINT ANY
ACTIVATED STARK ARMOR
ANYWHERE ON EARTH NO
MATTER IF IT'S HOOKED
INTO A SYSTEM
OR NOT.



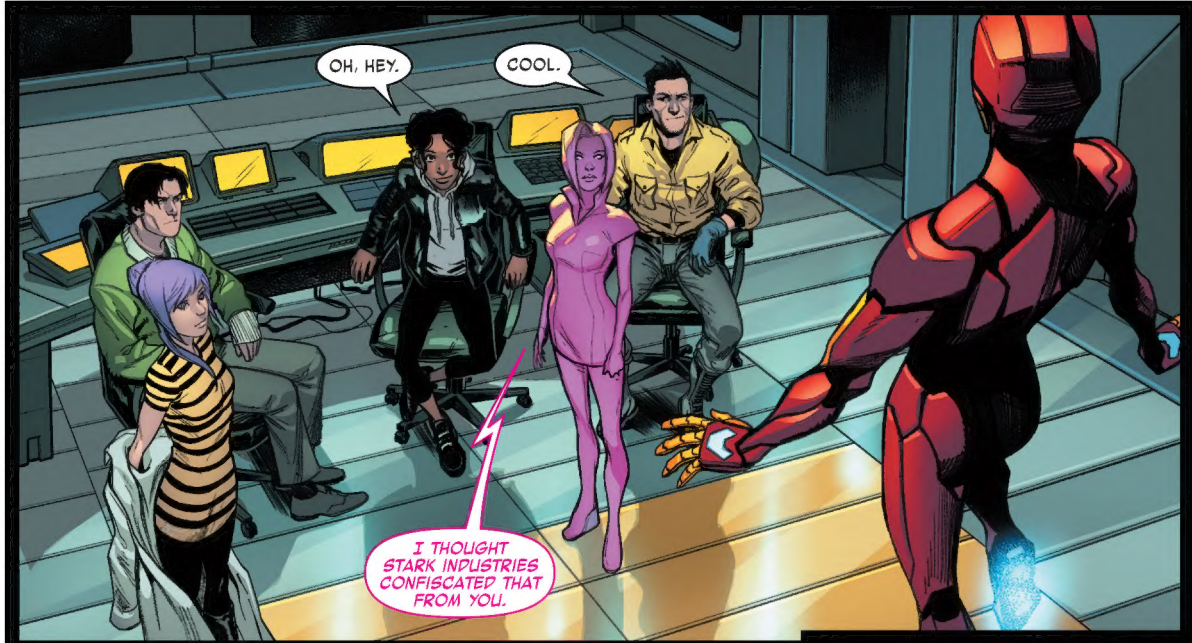
YOU SEE
WHAT WE'RE
DOING?

PROCESS
OF CODING
ELIMINATION.

CAN
YOU DO IT
FASTER?

YES.

AND
YOUR ARMOR
IS HERE.



OH, HEY.

COOL.

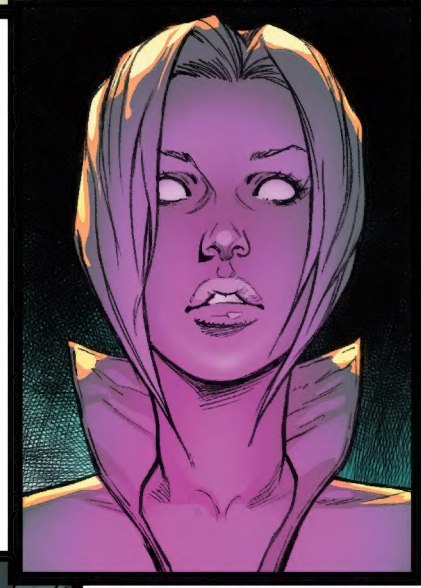
I THOUGHT STARK INDUSTRIES CONFISCATED THAT FROM YOU.



YEAH, I WONDER WHAT IT'S DOING HERE?

NAUGHTY GIRL.

FRIDAY, TELL ME WHERE TO GO...



WHAT IS SHE DOING?

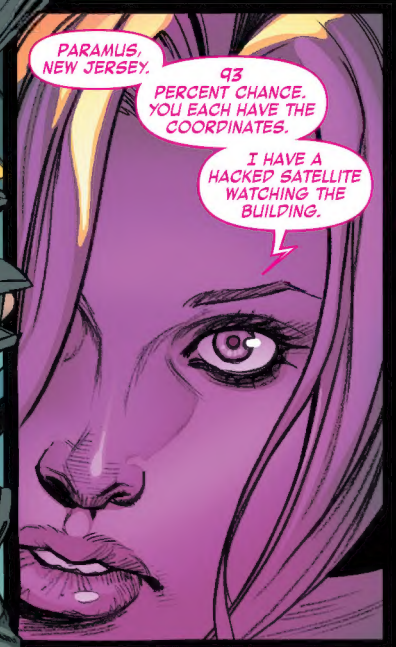
WAIT FOR IT.

WHERE IS THE A.I. HOLOGRAM BROADCASTING FROM?

TONY STARK IS REALLY LEAPS AHEAD OF US IN HOLOGRAM TECH.

OH, YOU, UH, ALL BROUGHT ARMOR.

WELL, DUH.



PARAMUS, NEW JERSEY.

93 PERCENT CHANCE. YOU EACH HAVE THE COORDINATES.

I HAVE A HACKED SATELLITE WATCHING THE BUILDING.

MAN, FLYING IS NOT AS FUN AS YOU FIRST THINK.

IT'S MORE FUN, MAPISON!

WE SHOULD CALL OURSELVES SOMETHING.

OR NOT.

ARMOR SQUAD!

WHAT?

NOTHING.

HEY...

SO BEFORE I CAME TO YOU AT M.I.T., I HAD... A VISITOR.

I KNOW.

SOMEONE WHO TOLD ME TO COME TO M.I.T.

I KNOW.

SO WHO IS BLADE?

YOU DON'T KNOW WHO BLADE IS?

NO.

BLADE: VAMPIRE HUNTER?

A WHAT-WHO-NOW?

KIND OF A VAMPIRE WHO HUNTS VAMPIRES.

VAMPIRE?!

KIND OF.

THERE WAS A VAMPIRE IN MY GARAGE?!

HEY, I KNOW I'VE ONLY BEEN DOING THIS A LITTLE BIT LONGER THAN YOU, BUT IN THIS LIFE WE'VE CHOSEN...

...YOU'RE GOING TO SEE SOME WEIRD SHIT.

WHAT WAS A VAMPIRE DOING IN MY GARAGE?

NOT HERE.

NOT WHERE?

NOT HERE.

IT'S A SECURE LINE.

NOT FROM HIM.

HIM WHO?



ROBBINS!
WHEN I AM
DONE WITH YOU--
YOU WILL REGRET
EVERYTHING SINCE
BIRTH!



I ALREADY DO
THAT...WHAT ELSE
YA GOT?

UNHAND
ME!



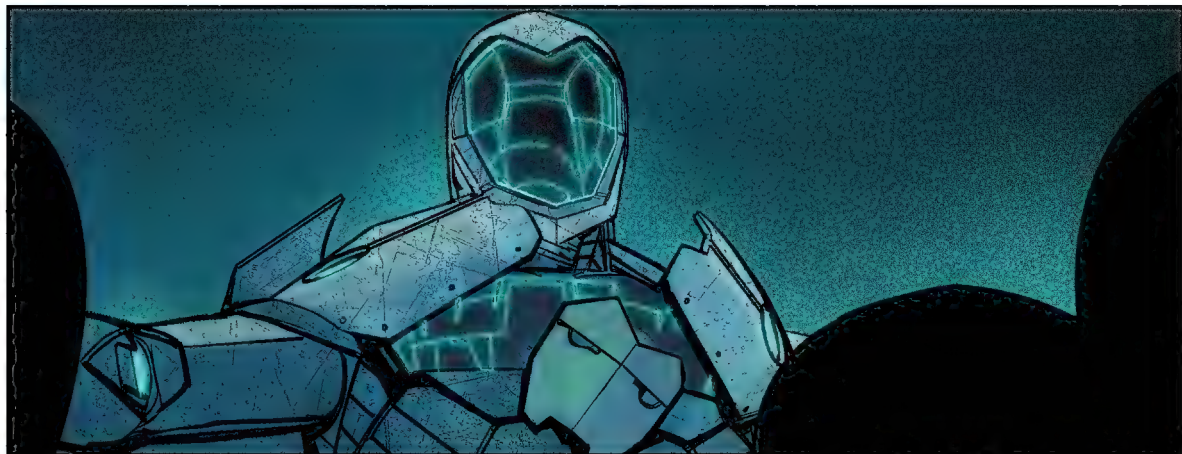
AALLMMOST!
GOT IT!



AGH!
WHAT THE
HELL?



HUH.



GONE.

I DON'T GET IT.
WAS HE EVER IN THERE?

HE WAS JUST THERE.

HE JUST ESCAPED.

HE'S GOOD.

WELL, HE IS DOCTOR DOOM.



I THOUGHT YOU WAS GONNA GUT HIM.

AFTER WE SHAKE HIM DOWN, DEATHWATCH. AFTER!

YEAH, IT REALLY ONLY WORKS AFTER...

WHY IS HE DRESSIN' UP LIKE IRON MAN?

IT'S--IT'S WEIRD.

I MEAN, EVEN FOR GUYS LIKE US.



EITHER HE AND TONY STARK ARE UP TO SOMETHING...

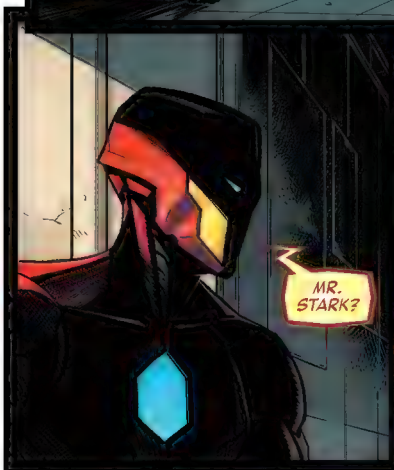
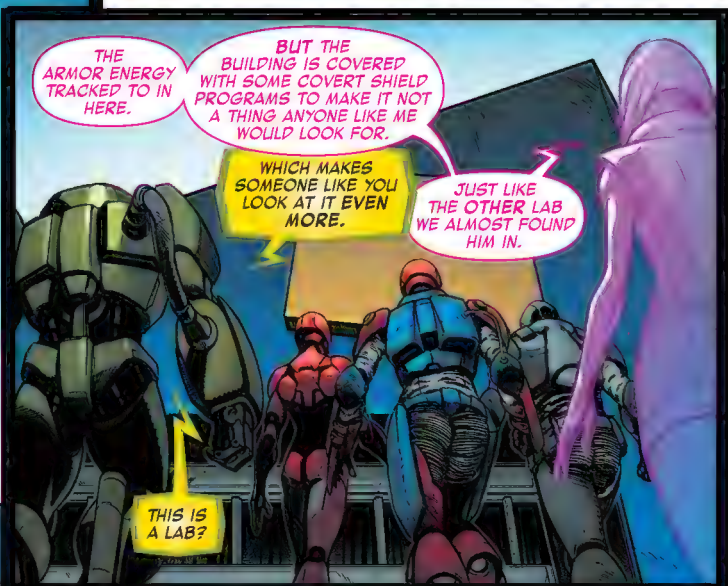
...OR HE HAS STARK...

...OR HE IS COVERING, FOR SOME REASON, BECAUSE THERE AIN'T NO MORE STARK...

...BUT ALL I KNOW NOW IS, RIGHT HERE, RIGHT NOW, OUR BEST PLAY TO GET TO DOOM'S GOLD...

...IS TO FIND TONY STARK.

PARAMUS, NEW JERSEY.







HEY! MY FIRST SETUP!
HOW COOL AND FRUSTRATING ALL AT THE SAME TIME.

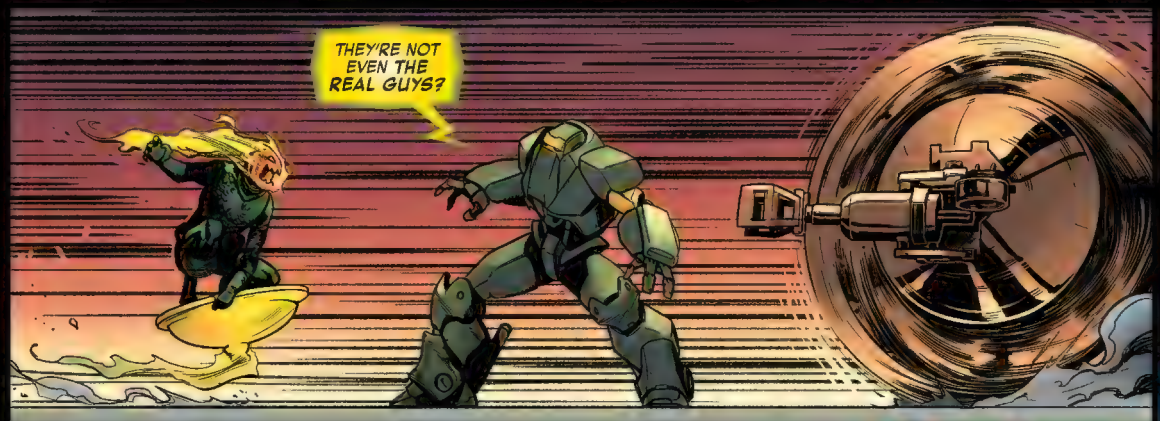
FSHHA MMM



UH, THIS IS AN EMPTY SUIT.
SOMETHING'S NOT RIGHT HERE.

WE CAME HERE LOOKING FOR TONY STARK AND INSTEAD WE FIND THIS?

LOOK.

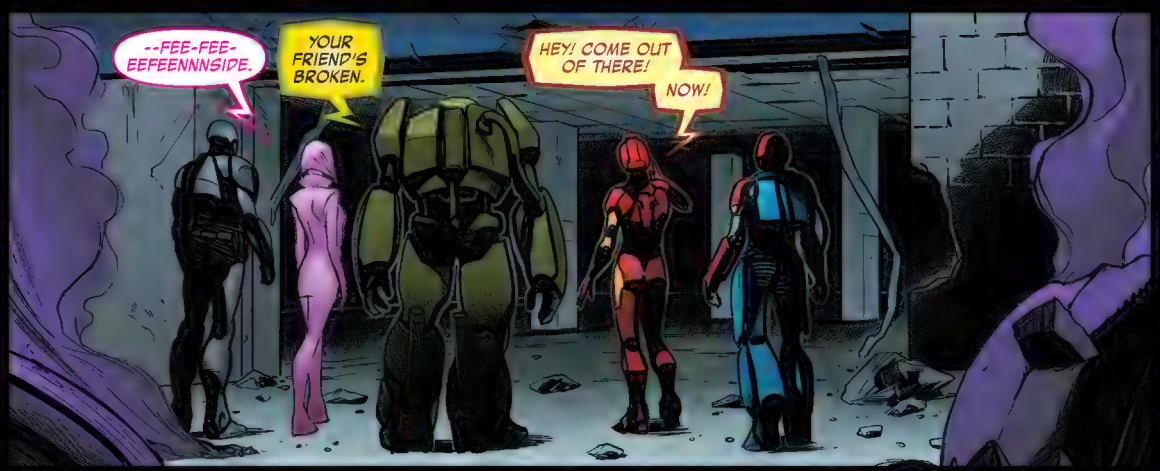
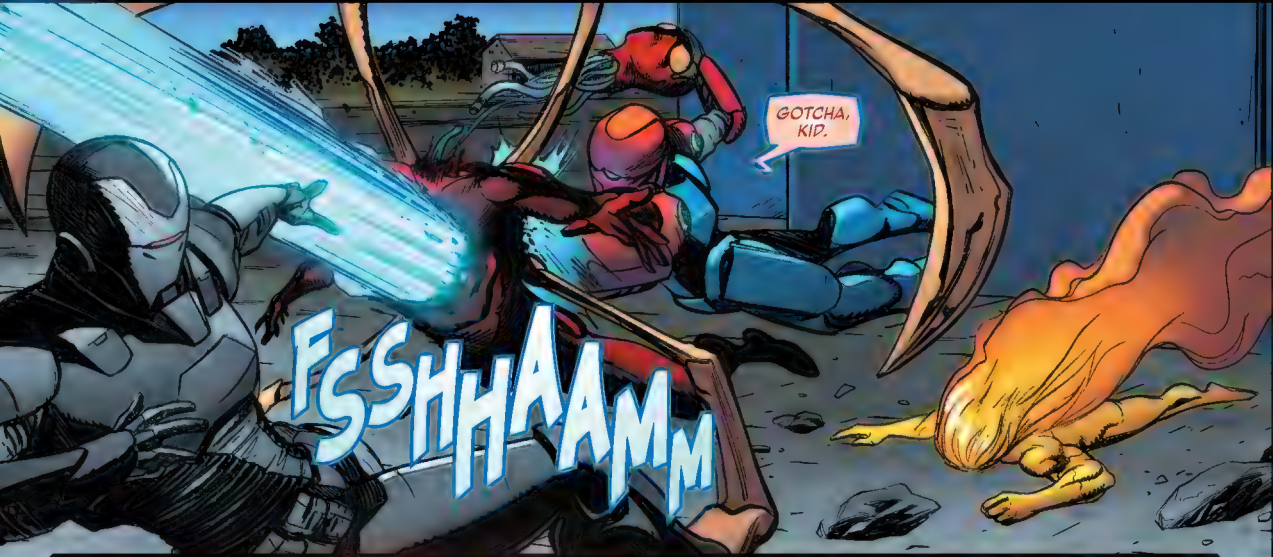


THEY'RE NOT EVEN THE REAL GUYS?



SPOK

AGH!
LITTLE HELP!





I MEAN IT, I HATE PAIN.

AND I HAVE A PLEA BARGAIN IF ANY OF YOU ARE IN THE AUTHORITY TO HEAR IT.

WHO ARE YOU?

WHAT?

WHERE'S TONY STARK?

WAIT, WHO ARE YOU?

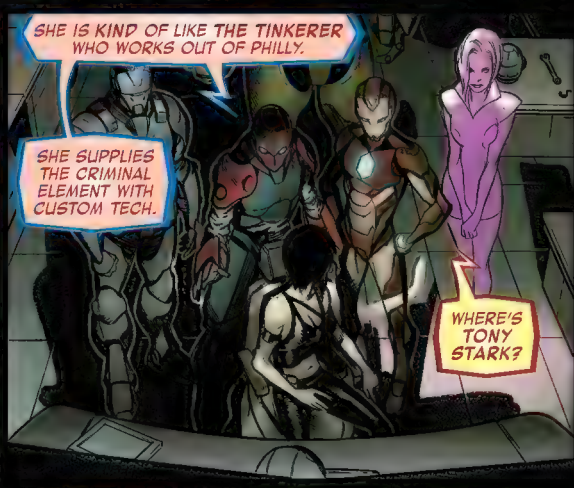


HER NAME IS CERES GOLDSTEIN.

DID YOU--I GET THE SUDDEN FEELING--

CERES IS A SUPER-POWERED ARMS DEALER.

--YOU WEREN'T LOOKING FOR ME.



SHE IS KIND OF LIKE THE TINKERER WHO WORKS OUT OF PHILLY.

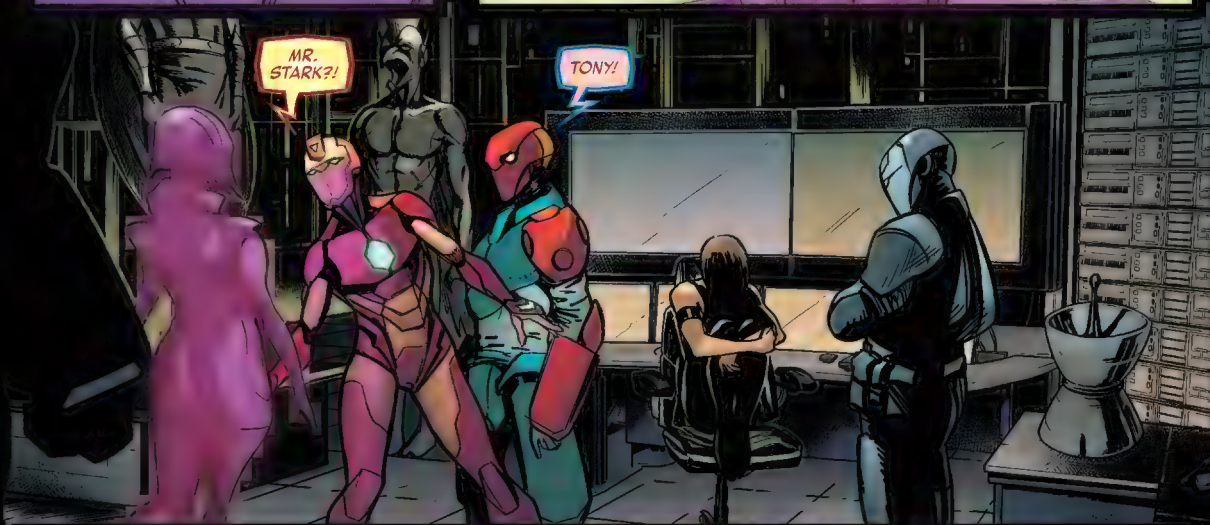
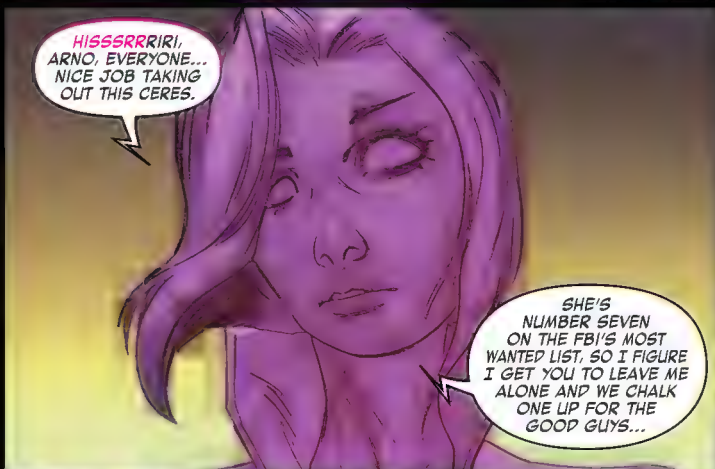
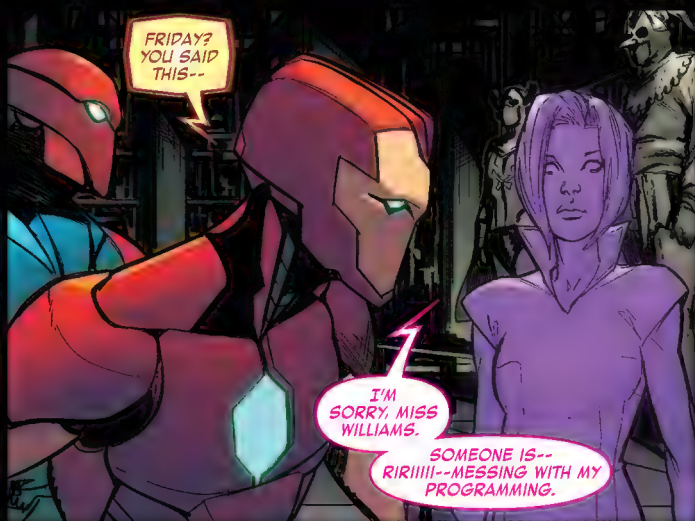
SHE SUPPLIES THE CRIMINAL ELEMENT WITH CUSTOM TECH.

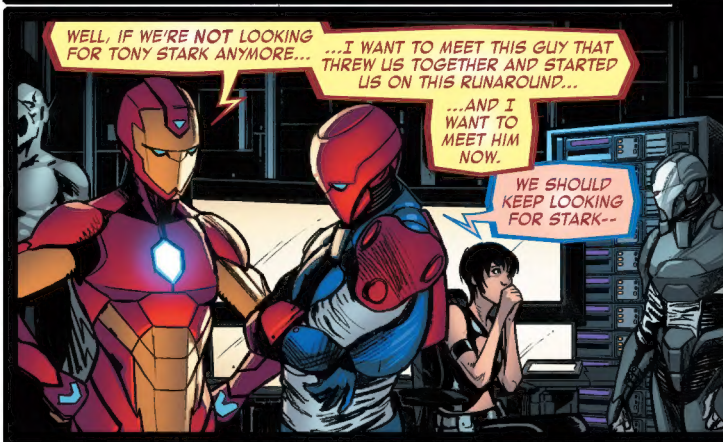
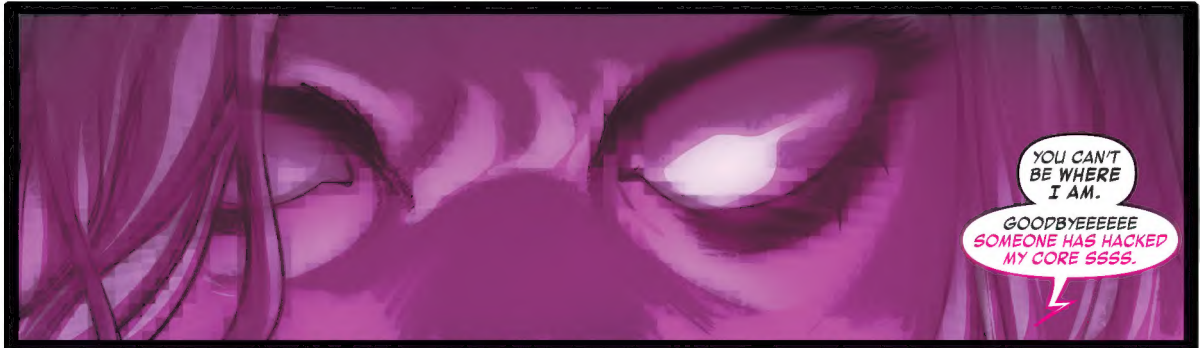
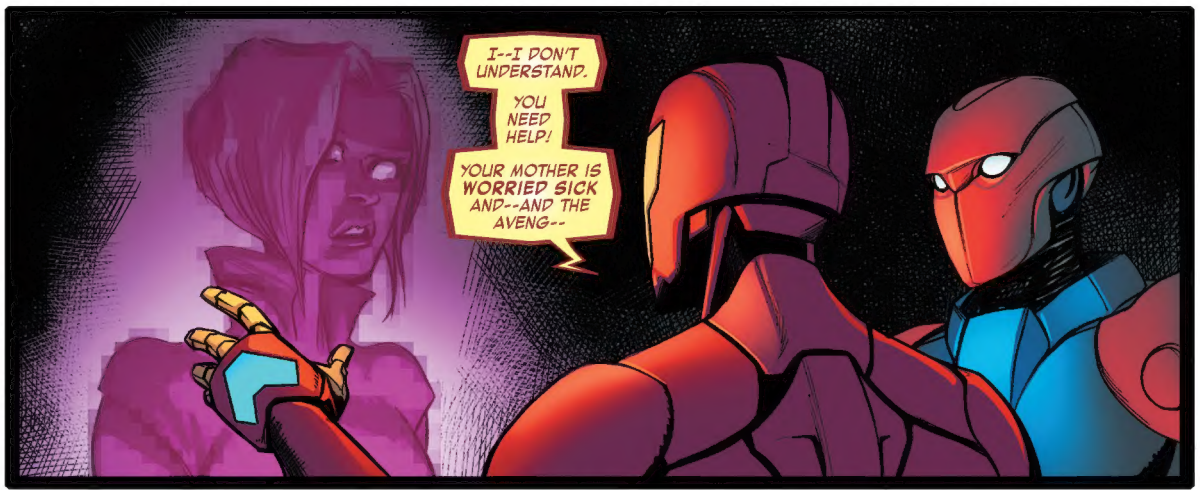
WHERE'S TONY STARK?



WHERE IS HE?!

YOU WEREN'T EVEN LOOKING FOR ME?!





BOSTON.

V-VICTOR?



DAMN YOU, VICTOR!

THIS ISN'T FAIR!

STILL ALIVE.

WHAT?! WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE?



MY--MMM--
APOLOGIES.

NO!
VICTOR,
NO!

I DO
NOT WANT
THIS!

I HAD
NOWHERE ELSE--
OW--TO GO.

THIS IS
NOT A PLACE YOU
CAN GO.



AMARA...

...I AM
THE FATHER
OF YOUR UNBORN
CHILD AND I
NEED HELP.

I THINK
THERE IS SOME
OBLIGATION
HERE.



TO BE CONTINUED...

NEXT ISSUE: INVINCIBLE IRON MAN # 599



THE RETURN OF TONY STARK?

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